

OPINION 1547

***Silurus felis* Linnaeus, 1766 (currently *Ariopsis felis*; Osteichthyes, Siluriformes): neotype designated**

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers any type specimen status of the specimen 125 in the Linnean Society of London collection, labelled *Silurus felis* Linnaeus, No. 19 of Garden, is hereby set aside and the specimen (BMNH 1985.11.11:1), the data for which are given in BZN 44: 33, para. 16, is designated as neotype of *Silurus felis*.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

- (a) *felis* Linnaeus, 1766, as published in the binomen *Silurus felis* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above;
- (b) *marinus* Mitchell, 1815, as published in the binomen *Silurus marinus*.

History of Case 2533

An application for the designation of a neotype for *Silurus felis* Linnaeus, 1766 was received from Dr W. R. Taylor (*Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) on 23 September 1985. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 44: 31–35 (March 1987). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. A comment in support by Dr A. Wheeler (*British Museum (Natural History), London, U.K.*) was published in BZN 45: 219–221 (September 1988). This also gave an alternative explanation for the cause of confusion over Linnaeus' type material of *Silurus felis*.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1988 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 44: 34. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1989 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 22: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Martins de Souza, Melville, Mroczkowski, Nielsen, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — none.

No votes were returned by Gruchy, Halvorsen and Lehtinen. Ride abstained.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

felis, *Silurus*, Linnaeus, 1766, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 12, vol. 1(1), p. 501.

marinus, *Silurus*, Mitchell, 1815, *Transactions of the Literary and Philosophical Society of New York*, 1: 433.